The details of imports of sugar, wheat, natural rubber and raw cotton for the period April to November,' 99 are as follows:

Commodity	Quantity (in tones)	Value (Rs. Lakhs)
Wheat	685317	41092.58
Sugar	884024	88129.41
Natural rubber	13149	4754.9
Cotton raw and waste	120858	66876.53

A. The figures provided above are provisional.

B. Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta.

Representations have been received from various organizations representing farming community for providing adequate protection to domestic producers against threat of import.

However all imports in the country are subject to applicable rates of Custom duties and also subject to domestic laws, rules, orders, regulations, technical specifications, environmental and safety norms as applicable to domestically produced goods. This should provide adequate protection to the domestic farmers. Further, the imports are being closely monitored and Government is determined to ensure through appropriate use of the tariff mechanism that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to the domestic producers.

India's tariff bindings at W.T.O for most of the agricultural items are fairly high and effective rates customs duties can be raised to those levels, in case there is any evidence of substantial increase in imports. Import duty on wheat has been increased to 50%, that of sugar upto 60% and of coffee upto 35% in the recent past to provide adequate protection to the domestic farmers.

In case of excessive imports or dumping, measures such as Anti-dumping action, imposition of Countervailing duties and Safeguard action can be resorted to provide protection to the domestic producers.

Restructuring the Present administrative set-up

5223. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken appropriate steps to amalgamate and restructure the present administrative set-up of authorities dealing with Patents and Trade Mark, Intellectual Property Rights related issues in the context of globalisation policies and update the laws systems compatible with international standards;

(b) if so, the details of action taken in this regard;

(c) the details of action plan upgradation of training facility/Constitution to meet the requirement of professionals to deal with Patent Regime; and

(d) the details of action plan for 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) The Patents Act, 1970, the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958 and the designs Act, 1911 are administered through the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The Copyright Act, 1957 is administered by the Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. There is no proposal to further amalgamate these authorities.

In order to comply with the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual property Rights which provides for minimum standards in the field of intellectual property rights, the following actions have been taken:—

(i) The Copyright Act, 1957 has been amended by the Copyright (Amendment) Act, 1999;

(ii) A Bill, namely, the Trade Marks Bill, 1999, to repeal and replace the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958 has been passed by Parliament;

(iii) A Bill, namely, the Designs Bill, 1999 to repeal and replace the Designs Act, 1911 is under consideration of Parliament;

(iv) A Bill, namely, the Patents (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 to amend the Patents Act, 1970 is under consideration of Parliament;

(v) A Bill, namely, the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registraction and Protection) Bill, 1999 for the registration and protection of geographical indications has been passed by Parliament;

(vi) A Bill, namely, the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Bill, 1999 is under consideration of Parliament; and

(vii) A Bill, namely, the Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Design Bill, 1999 has been introduced in Parliament and is slated for consideration during the current session.

(c) and (d) Government has sanctioned a project to modernise the Patent Office at a cost of Rs. 75.59 crores. The project includes providing the Patent Office with required manpower in existing as well as emerging fields of technologies, provision for training of officials and creation of awareness, etc. A provision of Rs 20.00 crores has been made for the year 2000-2001.